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to supply the deficiency. The present fasciculus, which forms the first part of a work of which it is intended that two parts shall be issued annually, contains colored plates of *Aquilegia Canadensis* L., *Geranium maculatum* L., *Aster undulatus* L., *Gerardia flava* L., and *Gerardia tenuifolia* Vahl. The artist, Mr. Isaac Sprague, is well known by his excellent outline drawings in Gray's Genera and in the botanical reports of several of the western surveys. The present plates are accurate in drawing and brilliant in color, that of the columbine being especially striking. The two species of *Gerardia* are figured on the same plate, but, although this is perhaps an advantage in a botanical point of view, it must be confessed that the general effect is not pleasing.

Accompanying the plates are twelve pages of text by Prof. G. L. Goodale. The task of describing plants which have a popular interest, as in the case of the species figured in the present fasciculus, is by no means easy or gracious. The writer is too apt to confine himself to vague sentimentalities. This danger Professor Goodale has successfully avoided, and instead of copious extracts from Mrs. Hemans and Wordsworth he has, very much more to the purpose, given quotations from Hermann Müller and Sprengel, writers who, although by no means unfamiliar to those who have taken a botanical course at Cambridge, are probably new to the majority of those who purchase the present work. If Mr. Sprague has made the Wild Flowers of America a work which will be sought by all lovers of the beautiful, Professor Goodale has done no less for those who seek instruction, pleasingly conveyed, with regard to our common native plants. The price, \$5.00 a part, seems rather high, but if, as we learn from the publisher's announcement, the first edition is already nearly exhausted, it cannot be said to be too high.

RECENT BOOKS AND PAMPHLETS. — Synopsis of American Wasps. By Dr. H. de Saussure. Solitary Wasps. (Smithsonian Miscellaneous Collections. 254.) Washington, D. C. 1875. 8vo, pp. 385.

Studien zur Descendenz-theorie. II. Ueber die letzten Ursachen der Transmutationen. Von Prof. August Weismann. Leipzig. 1876. 8vo, pp. 336. 5 plates.

Seventh Annual Report of the Geological Survey of Indiana, made during the Year 1875. By E. T. Cox, State Geologist, assisted by Prof. John Collett, Prof. W. W. Borden, and Dr. G. M. Leveté. Indianapolis. 1876. 8vo, pp. 601.

Entomologische Nachrichten. Herausgegeben von Dr. S. Katter. Jahrgang I. 1875. II. Heft i., ii. 1876. C. F. Vieweg in Quedlinburg. 8vo.

Recherches sur les Dicéymides, Survivants actuels d'un Embranchement des Mésozoaires. Par Édouard Van Beneden. Bruxelles. 1876. 8vo, pp. 111. 3 plates.

Our Present Knowledge of the Nidification of the American Kinglets. By Ernest Ingersoll. (From the Bulletin of the Nuttall Ornithological Club. Vol. i., No. 4. November, 1876.) 8vo, pp. 80.

Descriptions of some Vertebrate Remains from the Fort Union Beds of Montana. By E. D. Cope. (Extracted from the Proceedings of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, October 31, 1876.)

Increase Allen Lapham. A Memorial. Read before the Wisconsin Natural History Society. By Charles Mann. 8vo, pp. 21.

The Land-Birds and Game-Birds of New England. With Descriptions of the

Birds, their Nests and Eggs, their Habits and Notes. With Illustrations. By H. D. Minot. Salem, Mass.: Naturalists' Agency. Boston: Estes and Lauriat. 1877. 8vo, pp. 456.

GENERAL NOTES.

BOTANY.¹

HOMOGONE AND HETEROGONE (or Homogonous and Heterogonous) FLOWERS. — That difference in relative length or height of stamens and style, reciprocally, which in Torrey and Gray's Flora of North America was very long ago designated by the term *diaco-dimorphism*, Mr. Darwin, who detected and has made much of the meaning of the arrangement, called simply *dimorphism*. Besides these *dimorphic*, he also brought to view *trimorphic* flowers. The first name is too long for use and carries with it some ambiguity, since it may imply a separation as well as a diversification of the sexes. Mr. Darwin's term has the disadvantage of not indicating what parts of the blossom are *dimorphic* (hermaphrodite flowers may be dimorphous in the perigonium), and a more generic name is now required on account of trimorphic, etc. This has been supplied by Hildebrand in Germany, who has introduced the term *heterostyled* and the counterpart *homostyled*. These are not particularly happy appellations; for the difference is in the stamens as well as in the pistil, and in the latter is not always restricted to the style. Well-established terms ought not to be superseded on the ground of improvement; but those which have not yet taken root sometimes may be. Following the analogy of *perigonium* or *perigone*, I propose the more exactly expressive term of *heterogone* (or *heterogonous*), for these flowers such as those of *Primula*, *Houstonia*, *Lythrum*, etc. The counterpart *homogone* (or *homogonous*) would designate the absence of this kind of differentiation. These terms, either in Latin or English form, would work well in generic or specific characters, and have the advantage of etymological correctness. — ASA GRAY.

A MADROÑA SWALLOWS AN OAK! — "Being yesterday in the country in this neighborhood, I saw what seemed to me a curious botanical phenomenon, which may be of interest. The phenomenon is this. I found in San Rafael, growing side by side, almost from the same root, a Californian oak and a madroña, but on examining the madroña, I found that inside of it was the dead body of the oak that ought naturally to have proceeded from those roots, and the madroña was gradually overgrowing trunk and branches, laying its outside wrapper along like deposits of fat. The trunk was overgrown all but about a foot in some places, less in others (the trunk being perhaps seven or eight feet in circumference), and the branches were gradually, apparently, covered by the madroña covering, the solid part being madroña, and the dead limb of the oak projecting. Again, close by was another pair, oak and madroña,

¹ Conducted by PROF. G. L. GOODALE.